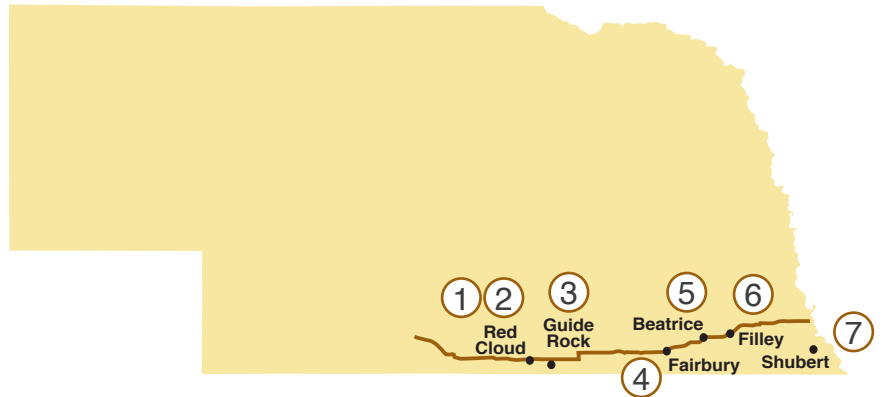


Heritage Highway

As its name suggests, this byway traveling along U.S. Highway 136 is packed with history, mostly of the pioneering nature. Emigrants came in droves through this area in search of a better life. And thanks to the Homestead Act of 1862, many stayed to stake a claim.

Historical Happenings

- ① On the National Register of Historic Places, Red Cloud's Starke Round Barn is the largest round barn in Nebraska and one of the largest in the country. It measures 130 feet in diameter and was built in 1902–03 with three levels: the first for animals, the second for machinery, and the third for hay.
- ② Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather spent much of her youth on the prairie near Red Cloud. Many reminders of the beloved pioneer life she wrote about can still be found there today, including her childhood home and the 608-acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie.
- ③ The Pike-Pawnee Village marks the spot near Guide Rock where Lieutenant Zebulon Pike came upon a village of Pawnees. This village was home to the last Spanish flag flying over the Louisiana Purchase, and Pike was sent to persuade them to replace it with an American flag.



- ④ What was once a road ranch along the Oregon Trail is now Rock Creek Station State Historical Park outside Fairbury. In addition to providing goods to emigrants, the site bore witness to the beginning of Wild Bill Hickok's infamous gunslinging career and also served as a Pony Express station.
- ⑤ Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice marks the first 160-acre claim entered under the Homestead Act of 1862. The homestead was claimed by Daniel Freeman.
- ⑥ The Elijah Filley Stone Barn stands tall on the Nebraska prairie near the village of Filley. This three-story barn was constructed out of stone in order to withstand the grasshopper plague of the early 1870s and is now on the National Register of Historic Places.
- ⑦ Evidence of the long Native American presence in the Shubert area can be found at Indian Cave State Park. Ancient Native American petroglyphs are still visible in the park's cave.

Funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration and the Nebraska Department of Roads with assistance from the Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism.



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